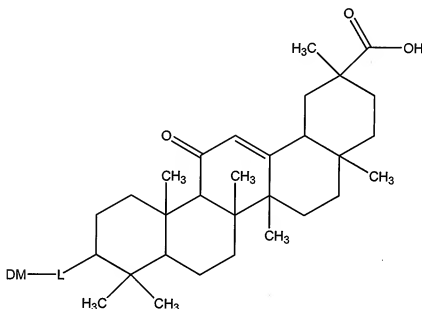


AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing Of Claims

1. (original) A probe comprising:

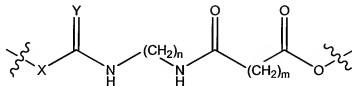


wherein

DM is a detectable marker; and

L is a straight or branched chain moiety providing between 1 and 20 atom separation between DM and the ring atom to which DM is attached.

2. (original) A probe according to claim 1 wherein L comprises the formula:



wherein:

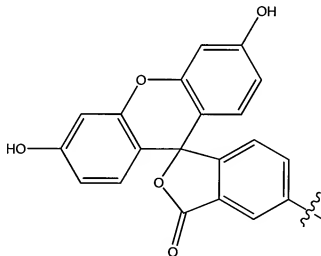
X is selected from the group consisting of NH and a single bond;

Y is selected from the group consisting of S or O;

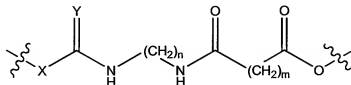
m is ≥ 2 ; and

n is ≥ 2 .

3. (original) A probe according to claim 2 wherein DM is a fluorescent detectable marker.
4. (original) A probe according to claim 2 wherein DM comprises the formula



5. (original) A probe according to claim 1 wherein L comprises the formula:



wherein:

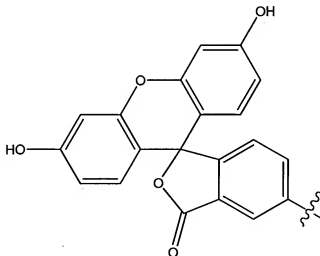
X is selected from the group consisting of NH and a single bond;

Y is selected from the group consisting of S or O;

m is 2 or 3; and

n is 2, 3, 4, 5, or 6.

6. (original) A probe according to claim 5 wherein DM is a fluorescent detectable marker.
7. (original) A probe according to claim 5 wherein DM comprises the formula

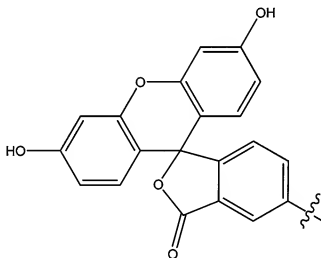


8. (original) A probe according to claim 1 wherein DM is a detectable marker selected from the group consisting of photoreactive groups; fluorescent labels; chemiluminescent labels;

colorimetric labels; enzymatic markers; radioactive isotopes; biotin-streptavidin; digoxigenin haptens; and electron-dense reagents.

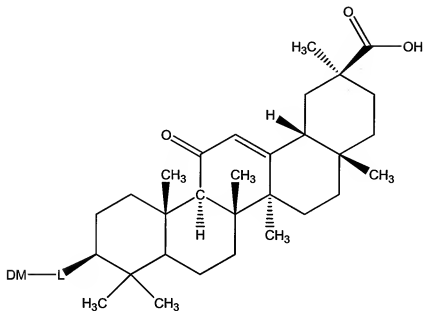
9. (original) A probe according to claim 1 wherein DM is a fluorescent detectable marker.

10. (original) A probe according to claim 1 wherein DM comprises the formula:



and wherein the probe is attached to a solid support.

11. (original) A probe comprising:

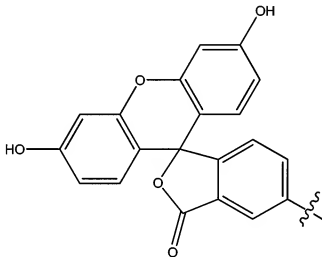


L is a straight or branched chain moiety providing between 1 and 20 atom separation between DM and the ring atom to which DM is attached.

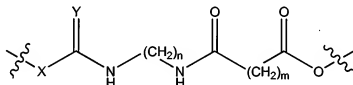
$$\text{---X---C(=Y)---NH---(CH}_2\text{)}_n\text{---NH---C(=O)---(CH}_2\text{)}_m\text{---C(=O)O---}$$

n is ≥ 2 .

13. (original) A probe according to claim 12 wherein DM is a fluorescent detectable marker.
14. (original) A probe according to claim 12 wherein DM comprises the formula:



15. (original) A probe according to claim 11 wherein L comprises the formula:



wherein:

X is selected from the group consisting of NH and a single bond;

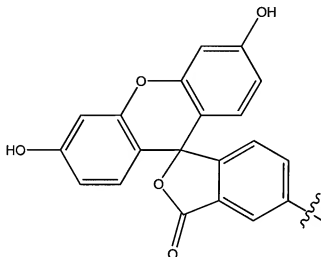
Y is selected from the group consisting of S or O;

m is 2 or 3; and

n is 2, 3, 4, 5, or 6.

16. (original) A probe according to claim 15 wherein DM is a fluorescent detectable marker.

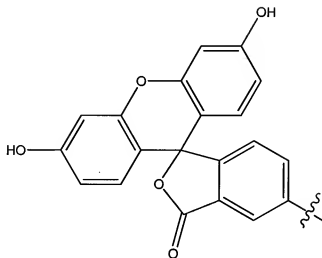
17. (original) A probe according to claim 15 wherein DM comprises the formula:



18. (original) A probe according to claim 11 wherein DM is a detectable marker selected from the group consisting of photoreactive groups; fluorescent labels; chemiluminescent labels; colorimetric labels; enzymatic markers; radioactive isotopes; biotin-streptavidin; digoxigenin haptens; and electron-dense reagents.

19. (original) A probe according to claim 11 wherein DM is a fluorescent detectable marker.

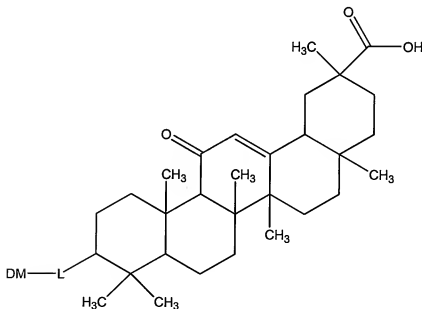
20. (original) A probe according to claim 11 wherein DM comprises the formula:



and wherein the probe is attached to a solid support.

21. (original) A composition comprising:

a probe immobilized on a solid support where the probe comprises the formula:



wherein

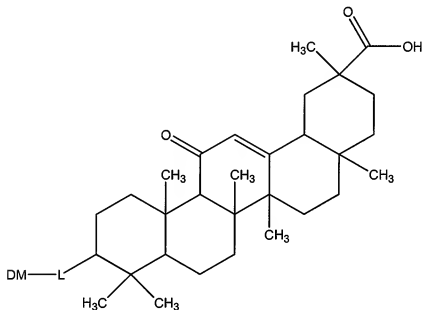
DM is a detectable marker; and

L is a straight or branched chain moiety providing between 1 and 20 atom separation between DM and the ring atom to which DM is attached.

22. (withdrawn) A method comprising:

contacting a probe with a target protein to which the probe is capable of binding; and
detecting the probe;

wherein the probe comprises the formula:



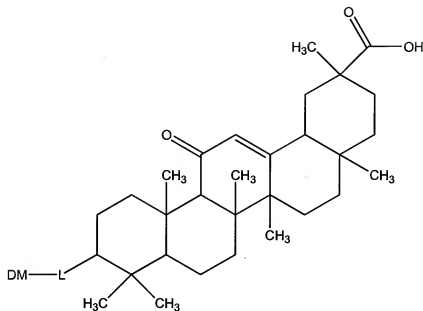
wherein

DM is a detectable marker; and

L is a straight or branched chain moiety providing between 1 and 20 atom separation between DM and the ring atom to which DM is attached.

23. (withdrawn) A method according to claim 22 wherein detecting the probe comprises detecting a probe - target protein complex.

24. (withdrawn) A method according to claim 22 wherein detecting the probe is performed without having to perform a separate step to remove probe that is not bound to the target protein.
25. (withdrawn) A method according to claim 22 wherein detecting the probe is performed with the probe and the target protein both in solution.
26. (withdrawn) A method according to claim 22 wherein the detectable marker is a fluorescent label.
27. (withdrawn) A method according to claim 22 wherein detecting the probe is performed by fluorescence polarization.
28. (withdrawn) A method according to claim 22 wherein the target protein is attached to a solid support.
29. (withdrawn) A method according to claim 22 wherein the target protein is 11 β -hydroxysteroid dehydrogenase.
30. (withdrawn) A method comprising:
 contacting a target protein with one or more test compounds in the presence of a probe;
and
 detecting the probe;
wherein the probe comprises the formula:



wherein

DM is a detectable marker; and

L is a straight or branched chain moiety providing between 1 and 20 atom separation between DM and the ring atom to which DM is attached.

31. (withdrawn) A method according to claim 30 wherein detecting the probe comprises detecting a probe - target protein complex.
32. (withdrawn) A method according to claim 30 wherein detecting the probe is performed without having to perform a separate step to remove probe that is not bound to the target protein.
33. (withdrawn) A method according to claim 30 wherein detecting the probe is performed with the probe, target protein and test compound(s) in solution.
34. (withdrawn) A method according to claim 30 wherein the detectable marker is a fluorescent label.

35. (withdrawn) A method according to claim 30 wherein detecting the probe is performed by fluorescence polarization.

36. (withdrawn) A method according to claim 30 wherein the target protein is 11 β -hydroxysteroid dehydrogenase.

37. (withdrawn) A method according to claim 30 wherein the method is conducted in a high throughput format.

38. (withdrawn) A method according to claim 30 wherein the method is conducted in a multiwell plate.

39. (withdrawn) A method according to claim 30 wherein the method further comprises determining a binding affinity of the test compound(s) for the target protein.

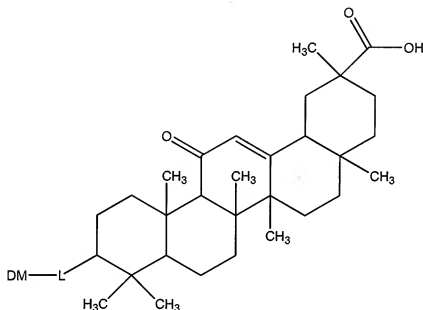
40. (withdrawn) A method according to claim 30 wherein the method further comprises performing one or more control experiments where no test compounds are added and/or no target protein is added.

41. (withdrawn) A method according to claim 30 wherein the method further comprises forming a standard curve against which results of the method from different samples may be compared.

42. (withdrawn) A method comprising:
 contacting a probe according to the present invention with a target protein to which the probe is capable of binding in the absence of test compounds;
 detecting a formation of a probe - target protein complex;
 adding one or more test compounds; and

detecting a change in the amount of probe - target protein complex after addition of the one or more test compounds;

wherein the probe comprises the formula:



wherein

DM is a detectable marker; and

L is a straight or branched chain moiety providing between 1 and 20 atom separation between DM and the ring atom to which DM is attached.

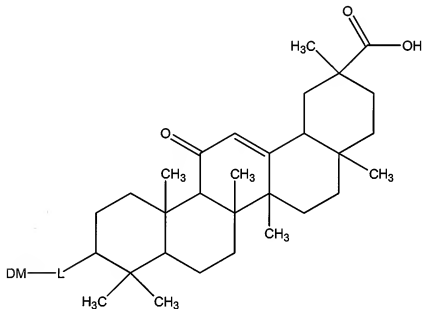
43. (withdrawn) A method according to claim 42 wherein detection of the probe - target protein complex and the change in the amount of probe - target protein complex after addition of the one or more test compounds is performed by fluorescence polarization.

44. (withdrawn) A method according to claim 42 wherein detecting the formation of a probe - target protein complex comprises detecting a probe - target protein complex.

45. (withdrawn) A method according to claim 42 wherein detecting the formation of a probe – target protein complex is performed without having to perform a separate step to remove probe that is not bound to the target protein.
46. (withdrawn) A method according to claim 42 wherein detecting the formation of a probe – target protein complex is performed with the probe, target protein and test compound(s) in solution.
47. (withdrawn) A method according to claim 42 wherein the detectable marker is a fluorescent label.
48. (withdrawn) A method according to claim 42 wherein detecting the formation of a probe – target protein complex is performed by fluorescence polarization.
49. (withdrawn) A method according to claim 42 wherein the target protein is 11 β -hydroxysteroid dehydrogenase.
50. (withdrawn) A method according to claim 42 wherein the method is conducted in a high throughput format.
51. (withdrawn) A method according to claim 42 wherein the method is conducted in a multiwell plate.
52. (withdrawn) A method according to claim 42 wherein the method further comprises determining a binding affinity of the test compound(s) for the target protein.
53. (withdrawn) A method according to claim 42 wherein the method further comprises performing one or more control experiments where no test compounds are added and/or no target protein is added.

54. (withdrawn) A method according to claim 42 wherein the method further comprises forming a standard curve against which results of the method from different samples may be compared.

55. (withdrawn) A kit comprising:
a probe; and
a protein to which the probe is capable of binding;
wherein the probe comprises the formula:

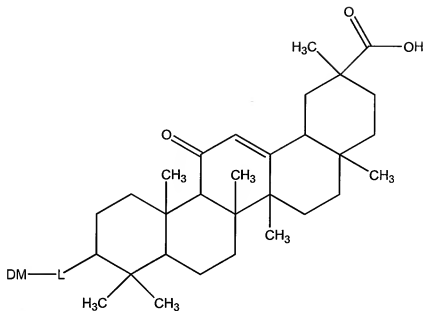


wherein

DM is a detectable marker; and

L is a straight or branched chain moiety providing between 1 and 20 atom separation between DM and the ring atom to which DM is attached.

56. (withdrawn) A kit according to claim 55 wherein the protein is 11 β -hydroxysteroid dehydrogenase.
57. (withdrawn) A kit according to claim 55 wherein the kit comprises one or more modulators of the protein.
58. (withdrawn) A kit according to claim 55 wherein the probe is in purified form.
59. (withdrawn) A kit according to claim 55 wherein the probe is attached to a solid support.
60. (withdrawn) A kit according to claim 55 wherein the protein is attached to a solid support.
61. (withdrawn) A kit according to claim 55 wherein the probe and protein are in solution.
62. (withdrawn) A kit comprising:
a probe; and
instructions for using the probe;
wherein the probe comprises the formula:

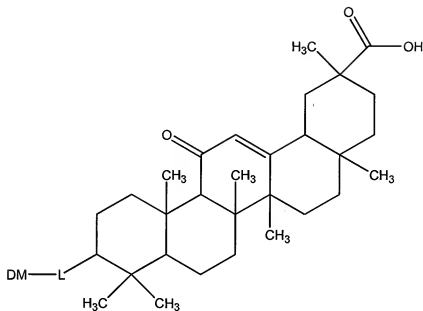


wherein

DM is a detectable marker; and

L is a straight or branched chain moiety providing between 1 and 20 atom separation between DM and the ring atom to which DM is attached.

63. (withdrawn) A kit comprising:
a probe; and
packaging materials for housing a composition comprising the probe;
wherein the probe comprises the formula



wherein

DM is a detectable marker; and

L is a straight or branched chain moiety providing between 1 and 20 atom separation between DM and the ring atom to which DM is attached.